

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1852
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 1951

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, CM, EK, UR, ZA
SUBJ: FAREWELL CALL ON SOVIET AMBASSADOR MALYCHEV

1. DURING MY MAY 3 FAREWELL CALL ON SOVIET AMBASSADOR MALYCHEV, I JUXTAPOSED NEW AMERICAN AND NEW SOVIET INITIATIVES IN AFRICA. HE DENIED THAT THERE IS ANYTHING NEW ABOUT SOVIET AFRICAN POLICY, SINCE USSR HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED LIBERATION STRUGGLES AND DEVELOPMENT. BUT HE AGREED THAT CHANGED SITUATIONS, INCLUDING INDEPENDENCE OF PORTUGUESE COLONIES, ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION, AND INSTABILITY IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REGION, PROVIDED BOTH US AND USSR WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

2. TO MY QUESTION WHETHER SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA VLADIMIR GNEDYTH, WHOM I HAD MET IN MALABO IN DECEMBER 1975 AND IN BATA IN MARCH 1976 WAS STILL THERE, HE REPLIED THAT LIKE MOST OF HIS PREDECESSORS HE HAD TO LEAVE FOR REASONS OF HEALTH. IT SEEMS SOVIET AMBASSADORS TO EG ALL COME DOWN WITH BAD CASES OF MALARIA. REPLACEMENT IS FORMER COUNSELLOR IN SOVIET EMBASSY IN CUBA WHO IS LATIN AMERICAN SPECIALIST. MALYCHEV AGREED THAT SITUATION IN EG WAS VERY COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT.

3. MALYCHEV COMMENTED SOMEWHAT SADLY ON FACT THAT HE HAS
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BEEN IN CAMEROON FOR ALMOST FIVE YEARS. TROUBLE IS THAT MINFONAFFS DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH SENIOR VACANCIES FOR MEN LIKE HIMSELF. HE HAS BEEN AMBASSADOR TWICE AND VICE DIRECTOR TWICE. HIS WIFE IS GOING ON LEAVE LATER THIS MONTH AND HE IN JUNE, HOPING THAT HIS RETURN TO YAOUNDE WILL BE FOR ONLY BRIEF PERIOD. I SUGGESTED THAT US SYSTEM WITH ROUGHLY TWENTY-EIGHT PER CENT NON-CAREER AMBASSADORS HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF OPENING UP

SENIOR POSITIONS OF THE KIND HE NEEDS, AND HE AGREED.

4. THIS LED HIM TO RAISE MY ACQUAINTANCESHIP WITH FORMER DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE FOR AFRICA OF ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF USSR SOLADOVNIKOV (SP?) WHICH I HAD MENTIONED TO HIM WHEN WE FIRST MET. SOLADOVNIKOV IS NOW AMBASSADOR TO ZAMBIA, AND MALYCHEV WAS SUGGESTING THAT SOVIETS LIKE AMERICANS USE QUALIFIED ACADEMICS AS AMBASSADORS. (FYI: HE FAILED TO MENTION THAT SOLADOVNIKOV STARTED OUT IN MINFONAFFAIRS IN 1950'S. END FYI) HIS SUCCESSOR AS DIRECTOR OF AFRICA INSTITUTE IS ANATOLY GROMYKO, SON OF SOVIET FONMINISTER, WHOSE PATHS HAVE ALSO CROSSED MINE IN PAST.

5. MALYCHEV AGREED WITH ME THAT CAMEROON WAS SOLID, STABLE COUNTRY IN AREA, AND ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE PLACED PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON ITS COMPETENT, YOUNG CADRE OF OFFICIALS.
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